

MAR 1952

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 SECURITY INFORMATION  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY China  
 SUBJECT Transportation - Highway, bridge

DATE OF  
 INFORMATION 1952

HOW  
 PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 19 Feb 1953

WHERE  
 PUBLISHED Hong Kong

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE  
 PUBLISHED 9 Nov 1952

LANGUAGE Chinese

SUPPLEMENT TO  
 REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Wen-hui Pao.

MOTOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION IN WEST CHINA

Hong Kong (by staff writer) -- Great accomplishments in motor highway construction and improvement have been made with unprecedented speed during the past 2 years. Thousands of kilometers of highways, the repair of which has been neglected for many years, and other highways destroyed in the course of hostilities have been repaired and restored to use at safe higher speeds and greater economy of operation. Remote regions of difficult terrain have been supplied with modern highways. At present, there are 110,000 kilometers of modern highways in operation. Under the former regime, there were only 67,358 kilometers of improved roads.

The highway from Ya-an to Kan-tzu in Sikang Province illustrates some of the difficulties and obstacles that have been overcome. This area in eastern Sikang is a part of the high plateau of Sikang and Tibet which is known as the backbone of the world. Within this area is the Er-lang Shan range, with elevations over 3,000 meters above sea level; the Che-to Shan range, with elevations of over 4,000 meters; and the Ch'iao-er Shan range, with elevations of over 5,000 meters. Here also are countless deep canyons and roaring torrents. Many sections of rough detritus and crumbling rock that offer a poor foundation for road construction. Although the former regime claimed that in 1940 a motorcar once traversed the whole route as far as K'ang-ting, thereafter the route was neglected and much of the surface and many of the culverts and embankments had washed away.

In 1950, the Central People's Government, using troops of the People's Liberation Army, undertook restoration and extension of the highway to Kan-tzu and beyond. Eight large wooden bridges for temporary use have been built which are later to be replaced by permanent steel bridges. As rapidly as the nation's finances permit, further construction will provide all parts of the country with an increasingly dense network of motor highways.

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GRAPHIC MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Requests for copies of, or further information on, the photograph described herein should be addressed to Graphics Register, CIA, by referring to report number and item number.

1. Location: China, Northwest Administration Area, Shensi, Pao Chiang Bridge

Caption and Description: Bridge over Pao Chiang on Szechwan-Shensi Highway, a short distance north of Pao-ch'eng /106 56, 33 14/. The bridge appears to be 100-150 feet long, the deck is suspended from a pair of parallel reinforced concrete arches

Photograph Description: Size 2 x 2 inches; poor, newsprint

Source: Wen-hui Pao, 9 November 1952, page 1

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